

Keep your English  
up to date 2

Teacher's pack

Lesson plan and student worksheets with answers

Wysiwyg



**BBC WORLD SERVICE**  
LEARNING ENGLISH



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# BBC Learning English – Keep your English up to date

## Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes

### Wysiwyg

#### CONTENTS

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1. Level, topic, language, aims, materials
2. Lesson stages
3. Answers
4. Audio script
5. Student worksheets 1, 2, 3

**Level:** Intermediate and above

**Topic:** Trust and disappointment

**Aims:** Listening skills – A short talk

Language – ‘Wysiwyg’ and other acronyms

**Materials:** Worksheet 1 – Introductory speaking and vocabulary exercises,  
Listening section 1

Worksheet 2 – Listening section 2

Worksheet 3 – Extra work: Vocabulary, language and discussion

Audio script – Available in teacher’s notes

Recording of the talk – Available online at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com)

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### Wysiwyg

#### LESSON STAGES

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##### A

Explain to the students that they are going to listen to a talk by Professor David Crystal, an expert on the English language, and that the talk is about the way English is changing. This particular talk is about the acronym 'wysiwyg'. Don't tell the students this acronym yet.

##### B

Hand out **Student Worksheet 1**. Students do **Speaking, Exercise 1** in small groups or pairs.

##### C

Students do **Vocabulary, Exercise 2** - without dictionaries at first.  
Practise the pronunciation of the vocabulary, as they will hear it in the talk.

##### D

Students read **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 3** and then listen to Section 1 of the talk.  
They answer questions 'a' and 'b'.

Students listen again and do **Listening: Section 1, Exercise 4**.

##### E

Hand out **Student Worksheet 2**  
Students read **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 5** and then listen to Section 2 of the talk.  
They answer questions 'a' and 'b'.

##### F

Students try to answer **Listening: Section 2, Exercise 6**. They listen again to Section 2 to check/complete their answers.

##### G

If you wish to do some extra work with the class, hand out **Student Worksheet 3**

For the vocabulary exercise, give the students copies of the audio script and play the complete talk as they read.

The language work focuses on other acronyms from phrases, mostly connected to the worlds of Internet chat and texting. The phrases are commonly used conversational items, or chunks. If the students are struggling, put more words from the phrases on the board for them to choose from.

The final discussion activity is connected to the topic – trust and being let down. Is life generally wysiwyg?

**AUDIO SCRIPTS**

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**Listening Section 1**

Wysiwyg. But it's not spelt as it sounds. Wysiwyg. It's an acronym meaning 'what you see is what you get'. It came in in the early 1980s in computing. It meant that what you see on the screen is what you get in the output. For example, you type something on the screen and when you print it out, it looks just like it's on the screen. Wysiwyg. It was especially found in desktop publishing.

So it's a technical term then? Well, yes, but the phrase actually isn't. And that's the thing I want to draw your attention to – the phrase was never technical.

**Listening Section 2**

It actually started in the United States, in a television show, in the early 1970s; it was called 'Rowan and Martin's Laugh-In'. An actor there called Flip Wilson appeared as a cross-dressing character called Geraldine and as he came on, he would say, 'what you see, it what you get!' And I've heard it used since in all sorts of circumstances.

I've heard it used in restaurants referring to the food – 'what you see is what you get'. And in a tourist brochure referring to beautiful scenery – 'come to this country and what you see is what you get' – that is, the tourist guide will give you everything you expect. And it got its accolade, I think, this phrase, when Britney Spears had a song which included it – 'because I can promise U baby what you see is what U get' – the word 'you' was spelt with just a capital letter 'U'.

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### Wysiwyg

#### ANSWER KEY

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#### VOCABULARY

##### Exercise 2

- a. **acronym** a word made from the first letters of a group of words  
e.g. UN = United Nations
- b. **screen** the monitor of a computer
- c. **a cross-dressing character** a female actor who wears a male clothes on stage, or the other way around
- d. **circumstances** situations or contexts
- e. **tourist brochure** a magazine that gives information to attract visitors to a country
- f. **an accolade** praise for or recognition of great achievement

#### LISTENING: SECTION 1

##### Exercise 3

- a. WYSIWYG
- b. iii. What you see is what you get

##### Exercise 4

- a. False – ‘you type something on the screen and when you print it out, it looks just like it’s on the screen.’
- b. True – ‘It was especially found in desktop publishing.’
- c. False – ‘the phrase was never technical.’

#### LISTENING: SECTION 2

##### Exercise 5

- a. iii. entertainment
- b. In a restaurant, in a tourist brochure, in a song

##### Exercise 6

- a. False – ‘An actor there called Flip Wilson appeared as a cross-dressing character called Geraldine [a female name] and as he came on, he would say,’
- b. True – ‘‘come to this country and what you see is what you get’ – that is, the tourist guide will give you everything you expect.’
- c. True – ‘the word ‘you’ was spelt with just a capital letter ‘U’.’

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## **Lesson Plan: Teacher's notes**

### **Wysiwyg**

#### **EXTRA WORK**

#### **VOCABULARY**

##### **Exercise 7**

- a. came in
- b. technical term
- c. referring to

#### **LANGUAGE**

##### **Exercise 8a**

- 1 AFAIK - as far as I know
- 2 ASAP - as soon as possible
- 3 ATM - at the moment
- 4 BRB - be right back
- 5 BTW - by the way
- 6 ETA - estimated time of arrival
- 7 FAQ - frequently asked question
- 8 FYI - for your information
- 9 IIRC - if I remember correctly
- 10 IMO - in my opinion
- 11 LOL - laughing out loud
- 12 TYVM - thank you very much

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## WORKSHEET 1

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### SPEAKING

#### 1. Discuss these questions with a partner.

- a. Who do you trust most to tell you the truth?
- i. Your friends                      ii. Your parents                      iii. Your teachers
- iv. Your brothers/sisters                      v. Your class or work mates
- b. In your country, which of these types of people have a reputation for not telling the whole truth. Can you give any examples? What kinds of things might they lie or hide the truth about?
- i. Politicians    ii. Scientists    iii. Celebrities    iv. Second-hand car sales assistants
- v. Estate agents (house sales agents)    vi. Internet chat room users    vii. Police officers
- viii. Doctors and nurses    ix. Religious leaders    x. Senior business executives
- c. In English, there is a saying: ‘You can’t judge a book by its cover.’ What do you think this tells you about life? Do you generally agree or disagree with it?

### VOCABULARY

#### 2. Match these words and phrases to their definitions

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| a. <b>acronym</b>                    | the monitor of a computer  |
| b. <b>screen</b>                     | situations or contexts   |
| c. <b>a cross-dressing character</b> | a magazine that gives information to attract visitors to a country                 |
| d. <b>circumstances</b>              | a female actor who wears a male clothes on stage, or the other way around          |
| e. <b>tourist brochure</b>           | praise for or recognition of great achievement                                     |
| f. <b>an accolade</b>                | a word made from the first letters of a group of words<br>e.g. UN = United Nations |

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### **LISTENING SECTION 1**

**3. Now, listen to Professor Crystal talking about a new word in English and answer these questions.**

- a. How do you spell the word?
  
- b. This word is an acronym. What does it stand for?
  - i. What you seed is what you get
  - ii. What you see in what you get
  - iii. What you see is what you get
  - iv. What you seed is what you gain

**4. Listen to Section 1 again and decide if the following statements are true or false, according to Professor Crystal.**

- a. The word is used when there is a problem printing something on the computer screen.
- b. People who used computers to produce books used the term frequently.
- c. The phrase was originally a technical term.

## WORKSHEET 2

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### LISTENING SECTION 2

**5. Listen to Section 2 of the talk and answer this question.**

**a.** Where did the word originally come from?

- i. technology
- ii. politics
- iii. entertainment
- iv. education

**b.** In which other three situations has Professor Crystal heard the word?

**6. Listen again to Section 2. Are the following sentences true or false?**

- a.** A woman dressed as a man used the phrase in a comedy show.
- b.** The tourist brochure claimed to show the reality of the country.
- c.** Britney Spears did not spell the word 'you' correctly.

**WORKSHEET 3 - EXTRA WORK**

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**VOCABULARY**

**7. Find the phrases in the text that have the following meanings.**

- a. appeared/started to be used
- b. scientific word
- c. talking about

**LANGUAGE**

**8a. Wysiwyg is an acronym that stands for ‘what you see is what you get’**

**This type of acronym, when a phrase becomes a collection of initials is common in internet chat and mobile phone text conversations. What phrases do these acronyms stand for? One word has been given to help U :)**

- 1 AFAIK - \_\_\_\_\_ know
- 2 ASAP - \_\_\_\_\_ soon \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 ATM - \_\_\_\_\_ moment
- 4 BRB - \_\_\_\_\_ back
- 5 BTW - \_\_\_\_\_ way
- 6 ETA - \_\_\_\_\_ of arrival
- 7 FAQ - \_\_\_\_\_ question
- 8 FYI - \_\_\_\_\_ information
- 9 IIRC - \_\_\_\_\_ remember \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 IMO - \_\_\_\_\_ opinion
- 11 LOL - laughing \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 TYVM - \_\_\_\_\_ much

### DISCUSSION

#### 9. Discuss these questions with your partner.

- a. Have you ever bought something and then been disappointed because it didn't meet your expectations, for example a car, a music player, a phone? What did you do? Did you complain?
- b. Have you ever been on holiday and been disappointed because you didn't get what you had been promised, or been disappointed because the travel brochure had said it was more fantastic than it really was? What did you do?
- c. What do you think you should do in those kinds of situations? What advice can you give to someone who needs to make a complaint about a holiday or something they have bought?
- d. Have you ever started to make friends with someone but then discovered that actually the person was quite different to what you had imagined, and that you didn't really like the true person? What did you do?
- e. Have you ever been excited about going to a new restaurant, bar or nightclub, or to a big party, only to be disappointed by it in the end? What happened?
- f. In general do you think modern life is more wysiwyg or more wysiwydg (what you see is what you don't get)?